

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

1. (currently amended) A cover for use with an endoscope, comprising:
a body having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an insertion portion of the endoscope and;
a disinfecting compound disposed thereon, wherein the body is configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.
2. (original) The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the recessed portion presents a tapered profile with respect to a longitudinal axis thereof.
3. (original) The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the body comprises an open cell foam.
4. (original) The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the body further comprises a channel coupled to the recessed portion such that the channel and recessed portion extend through the body.
5. (original) The cover as recited in claim 1, further comprising an indicium indicative of a condition of the endoscope.
6. (cancelled).
7. (previously presented) The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the disinfecting compound is integral to the body.

8. (currently amended) A cover for use with an endoscope, comprising:
a body having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to a probe portion of the endoscope, wherein the body includes an indicium configured to indicate a condition of the endoscope, wherein the body is configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

9. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the condition comprises a contamination condition.

10. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined color.

11. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined contour of the body.

12. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the condition comprises an operational condition.

13. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises information indicative of the manufacturer of the endoscope.

14. (original) The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium includes a raised surface with respect to an external surface of the body.

15. (currently amended) An endoscope system comprising:
an endoscope comprising:
a light source configured to produce a light beam; and

a flexible conduit having a probe end and configured to receive the light beam from the light source, wherein the flexible conduit is configured to direct the light beam outwardly with respect to the probe end; and

first and second cover members each having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to the probe end, wherein the first cover member comprises a first indicium indicative of a first endoscope condition and the second cover member comprises a second indicium indicative of a second endoscope condition, wherein the first and second cover members are configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

16. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors representative of a sterile endoscope condition and a contaminated endoscope condition.

17. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 16, wherein the first color comprises a green and the second color comprises a red.

18. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise first and second cover member contours representative of a sterile endoscope condition and a contaminated endoscope condition.

19. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second cover members comprise an impact absorbing material.

20. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second cover members comprise an open cell foam.

21. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second cover members comprise a plastic material.

22. (currently amended) A method of covering a probe portion of an endoscope, comprising:
securing a first cover member having a first indicium indicative of a first endoscope condition to the probe portion;
removing the first cover member from the probe portion; and
securing a second cover member having a second indicium indicative of a second endoscope condition to the probe portion, wherein the first and second cover members are configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

23. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors.

24. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise predetermined first and second contours.

25. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising sterilizing the probe portion prior to securing the second cover.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first endoscope condition comprises a sterilized condition and the second endoscope condition comprises a contaminated condition.

27. (currently amended) An endoscope system, comprising:
an endoscope including a flexible conduit having a probe portion;
a first means for covering the probe portion, thereby indicating a first status of the endoscope; and

a second means for covering the probe portion thereby indicating a second status of the endoscope, wherein the first and second means are configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

28. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first endoscope status is a sterilized status and the second endoscope status is a contaminated status.

29. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second means respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors.

30. (original) The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second means are detectable by touch.

31. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a cover for a probe portion of an endoscope, comprising:
shaping a flexible synthetic material to form a cover configured to releasably secure to the probe portion; and
integrating with respect to the cover an indicium indicative of a status of the endoscope, wherein the cover is configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

32. (original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined color.

33. (original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the indicium is configured to be detectable by touch.

34. (original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the flexible synthetic material comprises a plastic.

35. (original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the flexible synthetic material comprises foam.

36. (currently amended) An endoscope cover system including an endoscope having an insertion portion, comprising:

a first cover having a first indicia indicative of a used state and a need for sterilization, the cover being configured to receive the insertion portion; and

a second cover having a second indicia indicative of a sterilized state, the second cover being configured to receive the insertion portion, wherein the first and second covers are configured to be disposed on the tip of the endoscope only when the endoscope is not in use.

37. (original) The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second covers comprise an open cell foam.

38. (original) The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second indicia include colors.

39. (original) The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second indicia include contours.

40. (original) The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein at least one of the first and second covers is disposable.